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- Soleimani, Mohammad  
Rockville, Maryland 20850 (US)
- Outwater, Jeffrey E.  
Agoura Hills, CA 91301 (US)

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(71) Applicant: Hughes Electronics Corporation  
El Segundo, California 90245-0956 (US)

(72) Inventors:  
• Thompson, James D.  
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266 (US)

(74) Representative: Otten, Hajo, Dr.-Ing. et al  
Witte, Weller, Gahlert, Otten & Steil,  
Patentanwälte,  
Rotebühlstrasse 121  
70178 Stuttgart (DE)

## (54) Handset signalling time slot assignment plan for satellite mobile communication

(57) A mobile, satellite-based communication system (20) includes a defined signaling arrangement developed from an analysis of factors including movement of mobile terminals (28), movement of the satellite (22), beam discrepancies and duration of the call to the mobile terminal (28) to set up a frame assignment plan for time division multiple access (TDMA) carriers and identifying permissible frame offset which can be accommodated throughout the entire transmission. As a result, timing and frequency references from a mobile to mobile command may be provided from a reference source (24)

along with receive and transmit data communications without losing the command signals or the communication information and providing highly efficient use of each carriers time slots for receiving/transmitting communication signals. Similarly, the signaling arrangement permits an efficient frame structure and a time slot assignment plan that does not require enhanced equipment at the mobile terminal (28). Moreover, the signaling frame assignment is applicable to multibeam satellite-based mobile communication systems for use with communications between mobile terminals (28) and gateways (24, 20) as well as between mobile terminals (28).

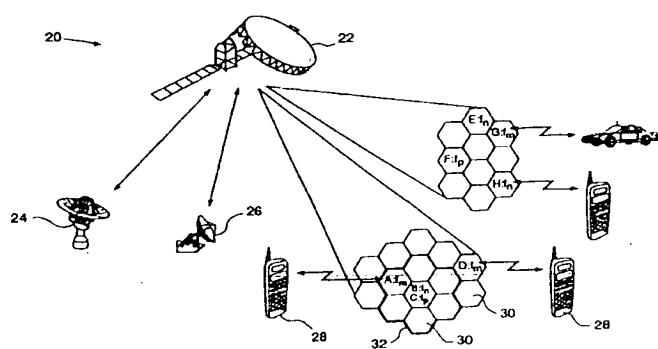


Fig. 1



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## EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 97 10 1852

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)		
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			H04B H04J		
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims					
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner			
MUNICH	19 June 2001	Draper, A			
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS					
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document					
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